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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication wish to have rejected articles returned, they must in all cases send stamps for that purposs,

The Duty of To-Day.

There never was a time in the history of the United States when a deadlock between the two houses of Congress, or between Congress and the Executive, would count so terribly against the nation's honor and dignity as now.

The situation at Washington to-day ren ders that immense national misfortune not impossible.

Avoid it, Americans at the Capitol and in the White House!

Avoid it by any sacrifice of personal opinions or preferences as to method of pro cedure, so long as the great common purpose is preserved; namely, action without further delay for the forcible expulsion of Spain from Cuba, and for the independence of the Cubans.

This advice is intended for both ends of Pennsylvania avenue.

Let Congress stand by the President; but let the President also stand by the Congress, to which he has submitted the issue with these patriotic words:

"The issue is now with the Congress. It is a solemn responsibility. We have exhausted every effort to relieve the intolerable condition which is at our doors. Prepared to execute every obligation imposed upon me by the Constitution and the law, I await your action.

Let not to-day's record stand as a proach to the constituted authorities of a nation which has made up its mind.

Theodore Roosevelt.

The Hon. THEODORE ROOSEVELT, Assist ant Secretary of the Navy, is known to everybody as a man full of grit. Whether he has been boxing, or trying to force civil service reform upon a stiff-necked generation, or facing a grizzly bear or a recalcitrant Police Commissioner; whether he has been cow-punching in the West or driving saloon keepers in the East, he has always been fearless and ready for a fight.

It will not surprise anybody, then, but it will please everybody, to learn that Mr. ROOSEVELT has applied for an appointment on the staff of Major-Gen. Firz-HUGH LEE, U. S. V. Where Gen. LEE is there will be beautiful fighting, and Mr. ROOSEVELT wants to have a hand in it. It has been generally known that all along he has been the most ardent champion of a strong and stern policy against Spain who has held important office under the Administration. He has chafed at inaction. The time for action has almost come. Mr. ROOSEVELT sees the place of honor in the place of danger.

Mr. ROOSEVELT has been most efficient in his present post, one of great responsibility and activity, the responsibility and activity of which must increase as the war goes on. We admire his courage and we know the instinctive glowing chivalry of his nature, but is not his work of organizing war infinitely more important to the country than any part, however useful and glorious, which he could play as an officer in the field? Is it not better for the conduct of the war that he should stay in Washington? We are convinced that it is. We believe that as Assistant Secretary he can do better work for the country, although the kind may not be so agreeable to his temperament, than he can do in Cuba, brilliant as his military career there would not fail to be.

Whether he can be persuaded by such considerations or not, and whether he is inclined or not to listen to argument as to what he now regards as his clearest call to duty, the example of his courage and patriotism is inspiring. Here is a man. young and rich, who has steadily scorned a life of ease, and devoted himself to public employments, most of them of a thankless character. His leisure has been crowded with literary studies or out-of-door exercises as strenuous as his other labors. Now he is resolved to leave a high office, in the present circumstances one of the highest of offices, to have a personal share in the perils of the campaign.

Honor to THEODORE ROOSEVELT, the brave and true American! Honor to the hundreds of thousands of Americans as brave and true as he, if less famous, who are likewise resolved and eager to go forth to fight the Spaniards!

Vexatious Stamp Taxes.

While the naval and military authorities have been busy with their part of the preparations for war, the civil branch of the Government has been equally diligent in considering methods for providing the less conspicuous but no less important pecuniary material which will be needed, should the conflict, upon which we seem to be about to enter, prove to be a long one. For the immediate outlay incurred the Treasury has the remains of the bonds sold by the Cleveland Administration, and it is to be boped that this fund may suffice without resorting to other sources of supply. In order, however, to be ready for all contingencies, the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives has prepared a revenue bill, which it can introduce as soon as the necessity for it arrives.

According to the information thus far given to the public, the proposed bill will provide for a short loan, to be obtained by the issue of one year Treasury certificates resembling the British Exchequer bills, for a longer loan, for which bonds will be offered to popular subscription, for duties upon tea and coffee, for an internal revenue tax of \$1 per barrel on beer, in addition to that now in force, for increased taxes on tobacco in its various forms, and for the revival of the numerous stamp taxes imposed during the war. We venture to express the hope that this last part of the bill may be so framed as to exclude from it the vexations stamps which used to be required upon bank checks and drafts, and to substitute for them a more convenient but equally efficacious means of collecting from the same source the same amount of revcaue. The most that was ever obtained from these stamps in a year, was less than \$3,000,000, and in some years it was less

than \$2,000,000, so that even if they were | Mown by my omitted, little loss would result.

Instead of requiring stamps to be affixed to bank checks and drafts and cancelled by their makers, it would be sufficient to impose upon the banks the duty of collecting the amount which the stamps would represent, directly from their dealers, and of paying it over to the Treasury. The banks render a similar service now to the notaries whom they employ to protest defaulted obligations, and the extension of the system, so as to include the 2 cents, or whatever the required stamp would cost, to each check and draft paid by them, would involve little labor by the banks, and would spare an enormous quantity of trpuble to their customers. The Governent would run no risk of loss, since the banks' books would show, on inspection, the number of checks and drafts they paid, and it would save the cost of printing and selling the stamps.

A similar method might also be employed to collect the proposed stamp tax on telegraphic messages. The telegraph companies could add the tax to their tolls and pay it over to the Government. Their books, like those of the banks, would at all times show the amount due from them, and they could not evade its payment. But, whatever is done, let us be spared the vexation of sticking a stamp on every check and draft, or of printing the stamps on them, as we used to do under the old law.

No One-Sided Question. This.

It will be unfortunate in the extreme if the question what to do for Cuba and against Spain, and the question when to do it, should become tangled up with the ancient controversy as to whether Recognition

is an exclusively executive function. Late on Saturday night Senator ALLISON referred to this question as one which has been in controversy since the days of WASHINGTON; and he spoke of "the assumption of Congress to declare the independence of a nation" as being "in contravention of the well-known principle of international law."

It is quite true that this involves a difficult question of Constitutional Interpretation, and one which has never been determined satisfactorily either by legislation or by judicial construction. But it is not a fact that the Constitutional power of the Congress to recognize the independence of a nation has been steadily denied by the Presidents of the United States. Mr. CLEVLAND and Mr. OLNEY, it is true, denied it offhand. But another Democratic President, whose firmness of character by no means disposed him to surrender or re linquish any prerogative of his office, clearly admitted the power of Congress to recognize the independence of a new nation. That was ANDREW JACKSON, in the case of the Republic of Texas. President JACKSON was opposed to recognition of Texas as premature, and yet, in his message of December 21, 1836, he declared that the decision was with Congress and not with

the Executive, for the reasons here stated: "Nor has any deliberate inquiry ever been instituted in Congress, or in any of our legislative bodies, as to whom belonged the power of originally recog-nizing a new State—a power the exercise of which is equivalent, under some circumstances, to a declaration of war-a power nowhere expressly delegated, and only granted in the Constitution, as it is necessarily involved in some of the great powers given to Congress; in that given to the President and Senate to form treatles with foreign powers and to appoint Amt assadors and other public Ministers, and in that conferred upon the President to receive Minister

from other nations. "In the preamble to the resolution of the House of Representatives it is distinctly intimated that the expediency of recognizing the independence of Texas should be left to the decision of Congress. In this view, on the ground of expediency, I am disposed to concur; and do not, therefore, consider it necessary to'express any opinion as to the strict Constitutions right of the Executive, either apart from or in conjunction with the Senate, over the subject. It is to be presumed that on no future occasion will a dispute arise, as none has heretofore occurred, be tween the Executive and the Legislature, in the exer cise of the power of recognition. It will always b considered consistent with the spirit of the Constitution, and most safe, that it should be exercised, when probably leading to war, with a previous understanding with that body by whom war alone can be declared and by whom all the provisions for sustaining its perils must be furnished. Its submission to Congress, which represents in one of its branches the the United States, where there may be reasonable ground to apprehend so grave a consequence, would certainly afford the fullest satisfaction to our own country, and a perfect guarantee to all other nations of the justice and prudence of the measures which

might be adopted." For the sake of the dving in Cuba and the dead of the Maine, let not action be delayed in order to argue once more this side or that side of an indeterminable question of Constitutional interpretation, or to debate whether Andrew Jackson was right and GROVER CLEVELAND WAS Wrong, or GROVER CLEVELAND Wrong and ANDREW JACKSON right in their respective views of the relation of Congress to the recognition of new republics!

Don't Be a Godkin!

The Boston Herald, we are sorry to say, is arousing in New England somewhat of the same spirit of patriotic indignation and disgust as is excited hereabouts, in a much greater degree, by the abominable utterances of GODKIN'S newspaper.

In the destruction of the Maine the Bos ton Herald sees nothing more than a law dispute which we ought to carry, along with Spain, before an international tribunal of

arbitration to ask for a decision. In the proposition to send to Havana our warships, each with a flag at its masthead bearing the motto "Remember the Maine!" the Boston Herald sees nothing but "pure barbarism, a drop, not from the nineteenth century to the twelfth, but from the ways of a civilized community to the manners of the people who make up the tribes inhabiting central Asia and central Africa.'

This is less offensive to American sentiment than GODKIN's treatment of the watchword, "Remember the Maine!" He, alone of all writers or speakers in the United States at this time, makes a jest and a sneer of those solemn and significant words and uses them in the burlesque sense as a tag to his semi-traitorous articles.

Spain," says the New England disciple of the New York newspaper without a country, "has made concession after concession to us in a way that must have been intensely humiliating to her Government and her people, and instead of making the least acknowledgment, we propose to stamp upon her and kick her for the mere brutal desire of obtaining a more palpable revenge.

The phraseology of this indicates that the Boston Herald is getting its opinions directly from the headquarters of semitreasonable sentiment, at the corner of Broadway and Fulton. But the Herald ranks as an honest newspaper in its treatment of facts, and the following passage shows that it is perhaps the unconscious victim of the Evening Post's continued and unscrupulous misrepresentation of facts concerning Cuba and her people:

"No Congressional crator, no jingoist newspaper,

s majority of the Onhes people desire indeptadence. Beingen, cut of the 1,500,050 fills bitsets, some 20,000 nen have meinteined for nearly three years a denetive, but unconquered insurrection, does not prove that a majority of the people of the island are in sympathy with them or support their pol wishes. It is well known that almost all of those cosed to independence."

And, further, the Herald expresses the oninion that in the absence of "a popular mandate" from the Cubans themselves, "we cannot afford to play the part of the tyrant, and, possibly, force the great majority of her people into a form of government to which they are thoroughly opposed."

Tyranny, indeed, to force freedom and ndependence upon that cruelly oppressed island! This is quite worthy of GODRIN, to whom the Boston Herald prefers to go for facts concerning public sentiment in Cuba, rather than to a witness like Consul-General LEE, who testified the other day as follows before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations:

Benator Forann-What percentage of the popu tion of the island is Cuban ? "Consul-General Lex-About one million five orsix undred thousand people. About one-third of these are negroes. Take off 500,000 and that will leave 1,000,000, the Cubana being, out of that million, all

except about 800.000. Senator FORARER-About 70 per cent.?

Consul-General Lax-Yes, I think all but about 800.000. Benator Forance-Are all the Cubana friendly to the insurgents? Consul-General Lux-I never saw one who was

"Senator FORARER-They are all friendly to them " Consul-General Lax- Yes." We commend Gen. LEE's testimony to the Boston Herald in order that our es-

teemed contemporary may put itself

straight as to the facts, and get itself out

of the odious company with which it now seems disposed to travel. Let GODKIN walk Spanish all alone.

The Army.

Various measures before Congress look to the calling out of the organized militia and also of a volunteer force. Mr. HANny's hill as to the latter contemplates maximum of 400,000, while at the War Department 50,000 is spoken of as a good number of militia to be furnished at first.

Meanwhile Congress would do well to authorize forthwith the very few thousand men required to give the infantry regiments their needed third battalions. For half this additional force the company officers are now in commission under pay, but with no men to command, while for the remaining half there would be a large contribution toward the needed subalterns from the class about to graduate at West Point and from the army enlisted men who have passed or may soon pass their examinations for shoulder straps.

A bill increasing the enlisted force to 30,000 men would add only a very few thousand to what now exists, and it would secure, with the officers for them, a proper organization for the infantry. Since many of these officers, as has been said, are at hand, it would be an economical force, compared with a similar number of volunteers or of State militia mustered in, and, if Congress should desire, it could return to the old basis at the end of the war. But we do not think it would ever so return, because 30,000 is the very lowest permanent enlisted force we ought to have.

The Congo Railroad.

The completion of an engineering work of which the commercial importance may prove in a few years to be second only to the cutting of the Suez Canal has passed almost unnoticed amid the preparations for war in this country and the diplomatic entanglements in Europe. On March 16, according to Le Mouvement Geographique, the first locomotive arrived at Dolo, on the Stanley Pool. The Congo Railroad is thus finished after eight years.

The building of the 240 miles of track does away with the necessity of carrying everything from the interior to the coast on men's backs, and throws open the 10,000 miles of navigable waters and the 1,200,-000 square miles of territory in the Congo basin to the commerce of the world. It becomes possible to transport steamers of sufficient size to the waters above the falls that have hitherto blocked the river, and the prohibitive cost of transportation into central Africa is done away with. Before long improvements will be made that will extend the ease of transportation to points close to the valley of the Nile, to Lake Tanganyika and to the upper waters of the Zambesi. The break into the heart of Africa has been made.

It is to HENRY M. STANLEY that the credit for the railroad is due. From the time he emerged from Africa after his great discovery he labored untiringly to convince the world of the necessity of this short line for the civilization of the African continent. It is gratifying that he should have seen its completion after twenty years of waiting.

Major Gen. Lee.

The Administration has decided to thank Gen. FITZHUGH LEE for his arduous, distinguished, and faithful services in Cuba by giving him a commission as Major-General of volunteers and putting him in command of a division of the army for the invasion of Cuba.

The American people, without a dissenting voice, will approve this act of the Administration. The Godkins and their im-

potent kind are not Americans. Gen. LEE, in his modesty, has disclaimed any special value and refused any special thanks for his services. Yet there is a general feeling that some mark of appreciation and gratitude should be given to him. He has taken the only one that he would not have refused, and it is the one dearest to his heart. He will go back as a soldier to help win Cuba from the Spaniards, whose cruelties he has exposed and whose insults are still ringing in his ears.

The Spanish editors in Havana pretended to think that Gen. LEE went away from there too soon. He will come back a good deal sooner than will be convenient for them; and when he comes, and wherever he goes, at the head of the division, there will be warm work.

It often happens that home news comes out first abroad. Here is what the New York correspondent of the London Economist wrote to that paper on March 29 about Mr. Joseph LEITER's whent speculation:

"It now looks as if young Mr. LEITER would be likely deavor to manipulate the price of wheat in the face of actual facts. The Chicago price to day, which is morely Mr. Leiter's price and not the world's price, is about \$1.03 or \$1.04 a bushel, and your correspond ent is reliably informed that the beavy sales in Europe which Mr. Lurran is making of his holdings are with transportation rates paid. He is, therefore, evidently selling wheat which is nominally quoted a one to figure out his profits. These facts are not generally known except among handling actual

abnormal conditions in that trade, due to Mr. Lairus's remarkable activity. That gentleman's large profits in mount months probably place him in the position that he has not lost money so far; but before liqui lenly developed what may appear to by a certain prospect of a shortage in wheat crops at home or abroad. With a continued outlook for reasonably large or favorable crops of wheat in the world's principal wheat exporting countries during the next few conths, the now justly celebrated Leiter deal will go down in history like all similar ones—a m

to the ambition and potent testimony to the financial loss of the man engineering it." This does not agree with the popular understanding of Mr. LEITER's operations, and it will be interesting to observe how far it will be con firmed by events.

We print, elsewhere, the details of a law authorising the city of Paris to construct a system of street rallways. The interesting points of the scheme are, that the first 25 miles out of the 40 miles authorized will cost but \$33,000,000, and that the highest fare is to be 5 ents, from which the fares will come down to I cent for school children. Even at these low rates a company has been formed to work the road with a capital of \$5,000,000.

According to the Minneapolis Times, graphology cannot be used as a means of forune-telling, but in a majority of cases it is a good guide to the temperament of the writer.' Why can't a person's handwriting be used as accurately for purposes of fortune-telling as of character-telling? You can tell a per son's temperament from his handwriting if you know what his temperament is. He may have changed his style of handwriting a half dozen times, but he hasn't changed his character. Handwriting is deceptive. A man may be utterly lazy and careless and yet have a clear and formal fist when he writes an application for a free pass. We have known giants of men who wrote a tiny and bashful hand, and persons of artistic temperament who sprawled and sputtered like unwilling boys at a writing school. Happy is the man who has good temperament and a good handwriting. but it will not do to depend too much upon the latter, which may be carried to excess. Look at the forgers, for Instance.

There has been too much passing of the lie in

The lie is a convenient thing to pass, as no pody wants to keep it, but in parliamentary terminology there is no such phrase as "passing the lie." You pass the time of day; pass, with no object expressed, in poker, and on. But in modern Congresses and Legislatures the lie is no longer "passed." burled," and with tremendous violence. The gentleman at whom it is hurled stops it cleverly and hurls it back. These technicalities may seem trivial, but it is well to be accurate. Never pass the lie. Hurl it. Otherwise how can the other man huel it back i

Mr. BRYAN was in Boston last week, and the brethren of the Massachusetts Bimetallic Union crowded around him. "The world is on the eve of great changes," cried the Hop. E. MOODY BOYNTON, "and even now the swing of the pendulum is bringing the uplift of humani-Humanity has watched the maxillary swing of the Hon, E. MOODY BOYNTON for many a year and ought not to need any more upliftings. Mr BRYAN said that he didn't "believe in indirect larceny by legislation." Direct larceny by legislation is good enough for him. brethren went to a hotel and shook the good nan's hand. According to a cruel reporter, the Hon, G. FRED WILLIAMS " was down to assist in receiving, but the crowd was too eager to shake the hand of Mr. BRYAN to give much attention to a local man, so Mr. BRYAN received alone. G. FRED WILLIAMS local ! Is the all-surround ing other local !

"It was half-past 2 when the company filed down to the lower banquet hall for dinner.' Dear old Boston!

The underground trolley cars on the Sec and and the Fourth avenues are a great improvement on the old borse cars, and are highly approved by those who ride in them, but the speed at which they run, and which is one of their chief attractions, has added a new peril to the lives of pedestrians. Their record of slaugh ter has not yet begun to equal that of the Brooklyn trolley cars, and the mischief they have as yet done has been confined chiefly to collisions with other street cars and with trucks and car riages, but they are none the less a constant surce of terror to the nervous and the timid. What with them, with the Broadway cable cars, and with the multitude of swiftly darting bicycles, which crowd our thoroughfares, the New on his guard against being knocked down, if not

Out of the dim grotto where he has lain so long, dreaming of the silver paradise, the Hon. LAPE PENCE of Colorado arises, shakes his clustering rainbows, and takes his far-flashing pen in hand. "All our allied forces," he tells the Colorado Democrats, "viz., Silver Repub-Beans, Populists, and Democrats, must unite in electing JOE BAILEY Speaker. The tide will rise high enough this fall to give us two-thirds in both House and Senate in the next Congress, JOE SIBLEY will be there." JOE BAILEY has elected himselfaiready. No need to worry about him. But will Joe Sibley be there? He has a heart of honey. He can't bear to disappoint any body. Every Congress district in Pennsylvania has sent to him a petition, engrossed on a silver scroll, imploring him to become its Representative in the next House. How can he endure to give pain? How can he prefer one district to another? And if he is not in Washington, who is, and of what use is Washington ? Perhaps the Hon. LAYE PENCE, nestling among his rainbows, can tell what Joe SIBLEY ought to do.

Some person or myth that signs himself or itself "Harvard '73," complains in the Boston Transcript because the Harvard races the other day were rowed or started "with a howling northeaster blowing across the course, making "the swamping of the boats in-evitable." Thereupon, the moaner moans, 'forty-five young men were soon struggling in the ley water. Some narrowly escaped drowning; all risked their lives from exposure and are liable to suffer from this flasco to the end of their days." Moreover, the hollest sensibilities of "Harvard '73" were torn to ribbons; he was swamped in his own tears, and is still abed drinking hot herb tea. Too sensitive plant, why wilt thou quiver so ! Those fortyfive youths had all taken a cold bath that morn ing without injurious results. They like a few searching tests of their constitutions, and they don't expect that the Charles River is going to be raised to a temperature of 72° F. for their benefit. Cold water is as good for them as bot herb tea is for lachrymose and horror-stricken "Harvard '73."

The Hon. BOB TAYLOR, Governor and poet, was introduced to a Memphis audience last week by a kindred genius, whose remarks were almost too beautiful to print. For example:

"Tennessee, I am proud to say, has recognized and exalted her poet-statesman. She has placed upon his brow the laurel crown, and in his hand the truncheon of authority—and wisely placed them. We have musicians, and we have singers, and we have orators; but rarely does it happen that we find the triune nearnate. Rarely does it happen that nature bestows her gifts in such prodigal opulence as she has done upon the distinguished gentleman who will entertain you to night. For the voices that have their dwelling places in valley and mountain, and which are inaudible to us, he hears distinctly, and the beautiful messages they bear him he will reveal to us in his own matchiess way."

Then the threefold poet-statesman proceeded to show his triformity by delivering a lecture that was "a conglomeration of the 'Fiddle and the Bow,' the 'Paradise of Fools,' and 'Visions and Dreams'; and so beautifully intertwined were the gems of thought of all that even those who had heard each one could scarcely tell where the one began and the other ended.' The triform Bon, with his "intertwined gems," wheat, many is worthy to be the idel of Tennesses,

REPUBLICAN STATE POLITICAL Changes to the Attuation Caused by the Beath of Chairman Backett.

SYNACUSE, April 17 .- The death of Charles W. Hackett, Chairman of the Republican State Committee, removes a formidable candidate for United States Senator to succeed Edward Murphy, Jr., of Troy. From the hour Thomas C. Platt was elected to succeed David B. Hill in the Senate, Mr. Hackett was a candidate to succeed Mr. Murphy. It was the ambition of his life; it was his bourly thought and hope, and t sustained him in all his sick moments in the ast year. Mr. Huckett was first stricken down in Albany a year ago. He left New York against the advice of his physician and went to Albany to be present at the joint caucus which was to name Mr. Platt for United States Senator. He bename violently ill on arriving at Albany and did. not leave his bed in the Kenmore for many works. He could not attend the joint caucus which nominated Mr. Platt. It was during that sickness that Mr. Hackett's friends, from Mr. Platt down, declared that if the Republicans controlled the Legislature in 1898-99 Mr. Hackett should be nominated to succeed Mr. Murphy. Mr. Hackett had the ambition to take he seat once occupied by his old friend, Warner

Miller of Herkimer. Mr. Hackett's ambition was not viewed with complacence by the friends of Gov. Black, Superintendent of Insurance Payn, Superintendent of Public Works Aldridge, and a number of Republican State Committeemen, who were disposed to view Mr. Hackett's ambition with indifference, if not open hostility. They contended that the Republicans of New York State needed an orator in the United States Senate. Mr. Hackett never claimed to be a speaker, although he was not an indifferent talker when he decided to have something to say. Even Senator Platt has been compelled to listen to asser ions that Mr. Hackett was not an orator, and that the New York State Republicans needed one on the floor of the Senate, and so It has been secretly known for a number of months in the nner circles of the Republican party of the Empire State that Mr. Hackett was bound to meet with pronounced opposition at Albany in the event of the Republicans controlling the Legislature next winter. Indeed, Republicans here abouts went so far to-day as to say that Mr. Hackett's untimely death saved him from enountering the bitterest disappointment of his

For a number of months it has been under stood in the inner circles of the Republican party that Gov. Black desired a renomination for Governor, but, in any event, would like to cceed Mr. Murphy, his fellow townsman, in the United States Senate. Some have gone so far as to say that, in the event of Mr. Black's renomination and re-election and the Republicans retaining control of the Legislature, Gov. Black would resign, be elected United States Senator and be succeeded as Governor by Timothy L. Woodruff, George W. Aldridge or any other Republican who would be elected Lieutenant-Governor on the ticket with Gov. Black. This alleged programme has found few supporters in the State, for the reason that Gubernatorial ticket so nominated would be und to have but half-hearted support at the polls on election day. In other words, it has been said that such a programme would find little favor, because of its apparent insincerity of purpose. The death of Mr. Hackett has brought these and other matters to the front.

Gov. Black's friends have already taken the preliminary steps to bring about his renomination. Superintendent Payn and Col. Griffiths. the Governor's private secretary, have visited Washington within the last two weeks and talked with the Republican Congressmen of the New York delegation. Mr. Payn had a pleasant talk with Senator Platt, but the Gubernatorial situation did not come in for much comment. Col. Griffiths had heard that a coldness existed on the part of Congressmen Belden, Sherman, Hooker, Ward, Odell, Southwick and others of the New York delegation against the Governor. With but one or two exceptions, Col. Griffiths learned that there was no open hostility to the Governor, but the majority of the delegation preferred to wait a little longer before express-

ing their real scutiments. It is a matter of fact, which is admitted by Republicans who have been inclined to criticise the Governor, that he has strengthened himself and his party within the last two months by his course at Albany. These critics say without hesitation that the Governor has strengthened himself with the independent voters of Greate. New York because of his unqualified indorse ment of the new primary law measure and his unequivocal bostility to legislation with which the name of Richard Croker, the leader of Tam-many Hall, was associated, either justly or un-justly. In this respect, also, the Governor, his friends say, has strengthened himself with the country Republicans.

untry Republicans. Gov. Black's friends believe also that recent de-Gov. Black's friends believe also that recent develonments in Brooklyn have strengthened him. The indictment of Theodore B. Willis, Police Commissioner Philips, and others of the Atterbury organization is bound, the Governor's friends insist, to bring Jacob Worth again to the front this fall, and Superintendent Payn has already had an understanding with Mr. Worth looking to Mr. Worth's support for Gov. Black, at can be said, though, that at present the New York city Republicans are opposed to the renomination of Gov. Black, and the voice of these Republicans will, without doubt, have great weight in the Republican State Convention.

tion.

All those matters were brought out to-day when the news of Mr. Hackett's death was received and spoken of with regret. His death will, it was avered, tend to change many phases of the political situation. It is believed here that Congressman B. Odell, Jr., of Newburg, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Republican State Committee, will succeed to Mr. Hackett's place. Others asy that the most likely man to be selected is ex-Senator Commodore Perry Vedder of Cattaraugus, Mr. Vedder sponds most of his time in New York. der of Cattaraugus. A his time in New York.

RAPID TRANSIT IN PARIS.

Forty Miles of Street Entirond to Be Built by the City-Fares 5 Cents, 4 Cents, 8 Cents, and for School Children 1 Cent. From the London Economist.

The law authorizing the city of Paris to erect a system of metropolitan railways having been promulgated, the municipality bave published the terms of the convention concluded in July last with the General Traction Company, which undertakes to form within six months a special company for working the lines when constructed, with a capital of not less than 25,000,-000 francs (\$5,000,000). The total length of the system of lines is forty English miles, but only twenty-five miles will be taken in hand at first, the city undertaking to construct the first portion in eight years. As this is perhaps the first example of such a

considerable work being undertaken by a municipality, details of the working convention may be of interest. It has already been stated that the amount of the loan to be raised for the execution of the first portion of the lines is 165. 000,000 francs (\$33,000,000). The Traction Company, which has obtained the working concession, undertakes to employ only Frenchmen, and to have all its plant and rolling stock made in France. The Board of Directors of the working company must be exclusively French; the company will be permitted to have its depots and works outside the city, but they must pay the octrol duties on the materials employed, as if the buildings were within the city walls; the names of the stations must be of a uniform color, and must be so placed that they may not be confounded with advertisements; the minimum wages or salary to be paid to any of the company's servants or employees will be 150 france per month, or for workmen engaged temporarily 5 frances per day; the wages must be paid in full during the period of military instruction; the day's employment must not exceed ten hours, with a whole day or two half day's rest weekly, and ten days' holiday annually without deduction of wazes; in case of sickness wages must be paid in full for at least a year; in case of accident, until complete recovery, without prejudice to the infemnity to be paid if permanently dissblied, wholly or partially.

The farca are fixed at 25 centimes to cents first class and 15 centimes (2 cauty) second class for any distance. Passengers before 9 in the morning may have for 20 centimes (4 cents) a return ticket, available at any hour in the day. Children of the municipal schools are to pay a farc of 5 centimes (1 cent) only when travelling collectively, accompanied by a master. The working company will pay to the city for the use of the lines 10 centimes (2 cents) per first-class passenger, and 5 centimes (1 cent) account for the payment or the number. The stations and means of access to the platforms to be at the charge of the company, but the platforms are comprised in the work executed by the municipality. The concession is for fairty-five years, but the city reserves a right of purchase from the year 1910. Company, which has obtained the working con cession, undertakes to employ only Frenchmen,

THE CURRENCY PROBLEM.

ary Gage Approves the Mill Proposed by the House Hanking Committee.

WASHINGTON, April 17 .- A strong expressio in favor of action upon the currency has just been obtained as a result of a canvass of the Republican members of the House. The question came up among the Republican members of the Banking Committee whether the majority of the party desired any action upon the subject of currency reform. One or two of the members believed that the present currency system did not call for radical change and that it might be better to attempt no legislation during the pres

ent session of Congress. Mr. Hill of Connecticut expressed a desire to put the question to a test. He took a list of the Republican members and personally saw as many as possible within two or three days. It was during the time when the Cuban rese tions were under discussion, which made it easy to reach three-quarters of the Republican mem bers, but, on the other hand, the prevailing excitement had a tendency to divert the minds of the members from the importance of the currency problem. The figures were 124 in the affirmative and 48 in the negative. Only 27 Republicans were unaccounted for. "The feeling on the subject in the House,"

said one of the members, "is very different from what it was at the beginning of the present session of Congress. The strong sentiment for currency reform, which took definite shape in the indianapolis convention, which indorsed the work of the Monetary Commission, has been felt in nearly every Congress district, and has convinced many members of the political wisdom of meeting the wishes of the business community. The Republican members of the Banking Committee are considering the subject of report ing a bill, in the light of the results disclos by Mr. Hill's canvass, and may make such a report during the present week. Some amend ments have been suggested to the bill presented by the sub-committee, consisting of Mesers. Mc Cleary, Prince and Mitchell, in order to insure harmony among the Republicans. The subcommittee bill does not go so far as the bill of the Monetary Commission in some respects, but many letters are reaching members declaring that putting it upon the calendar of the House will be a long step toward crystallizing public opinion and securing proper action." Secretary Gage has addressed a letter to Chair-

man Walker of the Banking Committee expressing a favorable opinion of the principles govern ing the bill. He says:

"The bill is a comprehensive one. It seeks to establish more firmly the credit of the Government; to furnish better assurances that the parity between gold and silver will be steadfastly maintained; to relieve the Treasury from the burden of current redemption of its legal tender notes by throwing the cost and risk of this business upon the banks. It seeks to provide a method by which the volume

this business upon the banks. It seeks to provide a method by which the volume of currency can be made more responsive to business needs, and at the same time to throw around such currency the elements of a perfect security. It is fact the enactment of the bill into a law would surely accomplish all these results, it is a piece of legislation for which the business and industrial interests of our country stand in great need. Would it accomplish these results! The question cannot be answered absolutely, nor could it be answered without qualification were the terms of the bill changed in any or all of its particulars.

"The authors of the bill have recognized the fact that any law to become effectively operative must carry provisions which will induce public co-operation. At the same time they appear to have realized that such inducements should be only sufficiently attractive to secure needful co-operation, reserving to the Government in the largest possible measure advantages which may justly be claimed as an offset to privileges conferred. Whether the effort to balance the question has been exactly and properly hit upon can be determined only by actual experiment. If any mistake has been made in this direction the mistake is on the side of safety to the Government interests. So far as I can judge, the bill is equitable and just, well guarded in its provisions as relates to the public, and I have a high degree of confidence that it, would work out substantially the good results contemplated. Some modifications may be necessary, either as to the privileges for circulation against the deposit of bonds, or as to the percentage allowed upon deposit of legal tender notes, or as to the amount to be taken over into the issue and redemption division. But these do not touch the principles of the bill. They are debatable suggestions which will be thrown upon them by those outside of Congress who will be more or less affected by its provisions."

GREW OLD WITH HIS WHISKEY. When That Supply Pailed There Was None o Earth Quite Good Enough.

From the Cincinnati Commercial Tribune Three well-known Covington men started on little hunt last week. They were going down to the blue grass region, and, as they had an illfounded supposition that there was no good whiskey in God's country, they provided themlves with a few quarts. They were face to a man with an intelligent face that had seen better days. His nose was red, an indication of loousclousness, which was soon in evidence. When the "likker" was passed he didn't re-

fuse it.
"That's pintedly good stuff, gentlemen, but ! seldom drink."

"Seldom drink." said the others in surprise "Yes, I'm kinder spoilt fer likker. I cain't git the kind I've allers been used to an fur that reason I seldom drink. But this her' is good, an' I don't mind jinin' you."

"What kind have you been drinking, sir, tha

you are spoiled for any other brand ?" Well, mine had no name. Yer see, my pay was a tolerably well-to-do farmer betch the was One uv his neighbors was a-runnin' a little still an' makin' the likker, but he got hard up an

one uv his neighbors was arunnin' a little still an' makin' the likker, but he got hard up an' couldn't pay his debts. So pap had to take about ten or twelve bar'is of likker, just ter git his money. There wan't no gol-dinged taxes then, an' a bar'l of whiskey wan't wuth mor'n se'n or eight deliars.

"Well, pap he put the stuff in the cellar an' lowed he'd jist keep it in case uv sickness in the family. He was sick more'n the rest uv us, but sis she couldn't bear the stuff and Bud he went an' fit in the war. Pap and me stayed home. We kep' a drinkin' that likker, an' it kep' a gittin' better 'n better. Pap he died after awhile an' there wus only me an' maw left, an' sis had got married, an' Bud was killed in the war. Then, when the old woman died, the whiskey cum natchully to me, an' sis didn', want enny uv the stuff. You know there wus a powerful big tax on whiskey an' it would we tuk all the farm to pay the taxes. an' I jist concluded ter let the stuff stay an' git ripe. Course, I'd drink when I wanted it, an' I'd take a gallon ertwo along when I'd go ter the county fair. Then sometimes I'd give a neighbor a bit, but most uv'em didn't know whur I got; the stuff, an' I wouldn't tell 'em, fur fear the revenue officers mout figit me. It jist went on that a-war, an' I thought maybe the stock would hast me till I died ennyway. But it didn', fur a fac. I guess I kep' a-drinkin a lecile too steddy.

"Every now an' then a bar'l'd go, an' I wouldn' even sell the bar'l, but I kep' it for firewood. It does make a pow'ful fine fire. One uv them staves would make a fine fire and cook a whole dinner. Hut it made me kinder blue ter see the likker goin' all the time, though I reckon I hadn't orter complain, ennyway.

"I had ter tap the last bar'l a year or two ago, an' now it's all gone, every bit. Thur hain't a drop in the cellar. After it was all over I bought me a gallon down ter Lexington, good stuff, they said, but I couldn' fur the life uv me git used to it, an' that gallon's lasted me a long while. The ole woman says

From the Kansas City Journal.

Yesterday Hailie Waggener tucked his wife under his arm and started for Washington. From there he will go to Key West and take a look at the American fleet. He says he would rather look at that fleet than all the world's fairs a man could see in a thousand years.

At "Gents' " Prices. From the Abany Evening Journal.
In the window of a clothing store in this city there

\$2.50 pants Marked Down from \$8 Trousers." On Even Footing.

From the Boston Beacon. He—And won't you give me a kiss? She—Certainly nor. I never kissed a man in my life. He—Neither have I.

Short Bistory of a Coming War From the Boston Globe. Uncle Sam: "Git!" Sagesta: "Nit!" And then they fit, And spain quit.

POLITICAL NOTES.

There is great distress of mind among the Goo evernment reformers of the Plour City (Rocks and the partisan Democrats of that town. H fore they have acted in concert, and they elec Mr. Warner as Mayor. Now they are at war, as reaten to separate into two rival organiss

The salaries of Governors of Territories are not reppopulation or the public revenues. The Governor of Arisona receives \$3,500 a year. The population of that Territory was 50,000 by the last Federal census. The Governor of New Mexico, the population of which was in excess of 150,000, gets \$2,600. The Governor of Alaska receives \$3,000. The Governor of Indian Territory gets \$1,500, while the Governor of Oklahoma (which was taken from the Indian Territory), gets \$2,600.

The real estate exempt from taxation in the bor-ough of Brooklyn includes 440 churches, 181 schools, 73 fire houses, and 25 police stations of the assessed value collectively of \$85,000,000. The exempt church property in Manhattan and the Brong amounts

Rhode Island was the first of the States to hold an election in 1898, and the results of it are easily sum-marized: The Republican vote for Gov. Dyer was the same as last year. The Democratic vote fell 500, The Socialist vote increased from 1,400 to 2,800-109 per cent., and was greater than the Socialists ever be-

Outside political parties, as they are sometimes called, get a firmer foundation in Massachusetts, perhaps, than in any other State. For many years the Labor Reform party in Massachusetts continued in a flourishing condition, though it found no recruits in any other State. Afterward the Greenback party in Massachusetts gained and retained considerable prominence, and it was followed in turn by the Labor party, and afterward by the Populists, whe in 1894 polled nearly 10,000 votes. Since 1896 the National Democrats have maintained a separate existence in Massachusetts, and they polied 14,000 votes in the State last year. This year the minor Debs party in the Bay State seems to be awake to the opportunities of the occasion, Representatives of the Focial Democracy, as it is called, from Cambridge, Malden, Worcester, Chelse Boston to make preparations for a State convention The delegates reported that their organizations are growing rapidly. One of the cherished plans of the Social Democracy is the holding of open air mass neetings this summer on the Boston Com-

In considering the probabilities as to the control of next year's Albany Assembly, attention has been called to the number of close districts in the State. These, it is to be observed, were generally carried by the Democrats, not the Republicans, last year. In Niagara county, for instance, the Democrats secured two Assemblymen-one by a plurality of 89, and the other by a plurality of 181 votes; while in Schenec-tady a Democrat was elected by 174 votes, and in Ulster one by 146. The close districts were, generally speaking, Democratic districts last year.

The term of Joseph R. Hawley, senior Senator from connecticut, expires on March 4 next. He is now in the eighteenth year of his Senatorial service. He is a candidate to succeed himself as Senator, but there are, it appears, some other aspirants in the way. among whom is National Committeeman Samue Fessenden of Stamford. Another aspirant is ex-Bov. Morgan G. Bulkeley. Six years ago, when candidate for Senator was to be selected he Republican caucus in the Connecticut Legislature, the three candidates for the hono were the same-Mr. Hawley and ex-Gov. Bulke-ley of Hartford and Mr. Pessenden of Stamford. On the first ballot Mr. Hawley received 65 rotes, Mr. Bulkeley 40, and Mr. Fessenden 15, 70 being necessary to secure the nomination. On the second ballot Gen. Hawley's vote fell to 61 and Mr Pessenden's to 14, Mr. Bulkeley's rising to 49, After that ballot the race was easy for the eading candidate, and on the sixth Gen. Hawley was renominated, his two opponents being tied for second place. It is a somewhat curious manifestaion of the truth of the statement that Connecticut is the land of steady habits, that six years later the three Senatorial candidates should be the same

Members of Congress and members of the State senate are to be elected simultanedusly in New York this year for the first time in more than half a century, and already some announcements have been made respecting the renomination of incumbents.
All the members of the local Congressional delegation are candidates for re-election, but Senators Grady, Sullivan and Cantor are not candidates for the offithey now hold. Sullivan is a candidate for Congress.

A provisional measure has obtained the sanction of the Trenton Legislature and of the present Gov ernor of New Jersey for the establishment of what s to be known as the Greater Jersey City, to be made up of all the towns in Hudson county through consolidation. There are now twelve wards in Jersey City and there are eleven other political divisions in Hudson county, the chief of which are Hoboken, Weehawken, Union township, Kearny, Bayonne, Guttenburg, Harrison, West Hoboken, and East Newark. The proposition to combine all the townships of Hudson county with Jersey City is in harmony with the plan which has been adopted across the Hudson in the enlarged New York, and there seems to be considerable tnatification for consolidating with the large city meh of its suburbs as draw their population from it or from business carried on within its boundaries. There has long been a sentiment of rivalry between the two large cities of New Jersey-Newark and Jer sey City. Territorially, Newark is much the larger of the two and claims a population of 50,000 in excess of Greater New York's nearest municipal neighbor

Preparations are being made for the celebration on May 17 at Osawatomie, Kan., the home of Brown, of the formal foundation of the Republican party, though the date, place and the circumstance of the event are in dispute. Osawatomie was sacked d burned on July 5, 1856, and the first Republican National Convention met in June of the same year in Philadelphia. The orator of the Kansas celebration is to be Gainsha A. Grow, the veteran member of the House of Representatives and a Republican who sucseeded David Wilmot, the author of the Wilmot com promise, in Congress in 1850. Mr. Grow is the senior member of the present House, as Mr. Morrill is of the

The term of the State Commissioner of Agriculture expires on April 29, 1899. The term of Excise Comsioner Lyman, which is five years, expires on April 1, 1901. A new Superintendent of Prisons has recently been appointed for a term expiring in 1903, and the term of the Labor Commissioner, John T. Mo Donough, will not expire until April 8, 1899.

There is renewed agitation in Connecticut for a change in the Constitution, which now provides that each town having 5,000 population shall be entitled to two representatives and no more. Connecticut is a State of small towns, very largely, and in consequence of the peculiar method of representation which exists, the interests of the two large cities. New Haven and Hartford, are sometimes. It is claimed, disregarded. The lower house of the Connecticut legislature has a membership of 252, and under the established division of districts, the minor places ecessarily control its action. The proposition to change this plan of electing representatives has been successfully resisted heretafor and one reason which will probably operate to a revent its chang, is the experience of the neighbor-ing State of Rhode Island. For many years Rhode Island relatined a property qualification as a requirement of suffrage and imposed also a poll tax on electors. After many years of ardent, persistent, and sometimes discouraging agitation the Democrats of Shode Island were enabled to secure the rescinding of this constitutional provision, and they did so in the expectation that it would benefit their prospeets materially. Since its adoption, however, Rhode Island has been rather more of a Republican State

The Dutchmen and Their Wives.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUR-Sir: Three Dutchmen and their wives went to market to buy hogs. The nen's names were Hendricks, Class and Cornelius the women's, (isertruig, Catryn and Anna. Each per son bought as many hogs as they gave shillings fo each hog. Hendricks bought 23 more than Catryn. and Class bought 11 more than Gertruig. each man laid out three guineas more than his wire. Who were man and wlis? NEW YORK, April 17.

Spring Illustons. From the Chicago Record.

"When a woman buys a lawn mower she thinks she can rin it berself."
"Yes?"
"And after she has had it a week she finds out she can't even make her husband run it."

Sure Enough War. From the Chicago Record.

"Did you talk war at your progressive suchre sin "Talk war? Ho; we had it."